

Sustainability Commission Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday April 22, 2008

Subject: Sustainability Commission – General Meeting

Commissioners & Staff in Attendance: Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo (by phone), Ray Ehrlich, Olivia Farrow, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, Ruth Ann Norton, John Quinn, John Ruppert, Tonya Simmons, Ali Smith, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Alyson Taylor, Mary Washington, Beth Strommen, Sarah Zaleski, Amy Burch

Discussion: The meeting was spent going over guiding principles and processes for how the Commission will operate, including the public involvement. Working group structures, deliverables, and expectations were also discussed.

Topics addressed:

- Working definition of “sustainability” agreed upon: *Meeting the environmental, social, and economic needs of Baltimore without compromising the ability of future generations to meet these needs.*
- The proposed guiding principles were generally well-received. Suggestions included alternative verbiage such as “inclusion” for “breadth” and “engagement” for “outreach”, more direct mention of justice, and removing the item on balance considering this is all three components are addressed in the sustainability definition.
- Working group membership, chairs, and structure were discussed. In selecting citizen working group membership, mention was made to consider those applicants who were not selected for the Commission as well as City Council district distribution. Definitions of deliverables (i.e. vision statement, targets, and indicators) were handed out to Commissioners.
- Process for public involvement with the Plan development was discussed at some length. Considerations raised included how the room would be physically set up at meetings to encourage discussion; how to balance wide participation with an effective, working process; how to collect and manage input continuously in real-time; and how to manage the first large public meeting on May 27th.

To Do:

1. Sarah Zaleski
 - Set up meetings with each of the six working groups to discuss process & expectations
 - Send reminder for the hearings Councilman Kraft’s sustainability-related legislation
 - Send invitation to join Commission’s yahoo group
 - Populate the Commission’s yahoo group with articles, emails, and other information collected
2. Commissioners
 - Join Yahoo Group
 - Keep sending Sarah names and contact information for people you would like to see serve on any of the working groups

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, May 27th 6:30pm - Next General Commission meeting